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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
Douglas E. Lecrone, et. al.
Application No. 10/692,285
Filed: October 23, 2003
Attorney Docket No. E30-033CON

DECISION ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition, filed on April 16, 2007, which is being treated as a petition under 37 CFR 1.181 (no fee) requesting withdrawal of the holding of abandonment in the above-identified application.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

This application was held abandoned for failure to reply to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed August 10, 2006, which set a period of one (1) month or thirty (30) days, whichever was longer, from the mail date of the notice to supply the correction. As no reply was received, the application was held abandoned.

A review of the written record indicates no irregularity in the mailing of the Office action, and, in the absence of any irregularity, there is a strong presumption that the Office action was properly mailed to the practitioner at the address of record. This presumption may be overcome by a showing that the Office action was not in fact received. In this regard, the showing required to establish the failure to receive the Notice must consist of the following:

1. a statement from practitioner stating that the Office action was not received by the practitioner;
2. a statement from the practitioner attesting to the fact that a search of the file jacket and docket records indicates that the Notice was not received; and
3. a copy of the docket record where the non-received Notice would have been entered had it been received must be attached to and referenced in the practitioner's statement.

The petition fails to satisfy item (3) above.

Petitioner asserts that the Office action dated August 10, 2006 was not received and that the docket records for the above application is in an archive file that is not in a clear text format. Unfortunately, the Office requires decipherable docket records that would prove that the Office action in question was not received. Therefore,

absent the required evidence to establish non-receipt of the Notice of August 10, 2006, the petition requesting withdrawal of the holding of abandonment cannot be granted at this time¹.

If petitioner cannot supply the evidence necessary to withdraw the holding of abandonment, or simply does not wish to, petitioner should consider filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) stating that the delay was unintentional. Public Law 97-247, § 3, 96 Stat. 317 (1982), which revised patent and trademark fees, amended 35 U.S.C. § 41(a)(7) to provide for the revival of an “unintentionally” abandoned application without a showing that the delay in prosecution or in late payment of the issue fee was “unavoidable.” This amendment to 35 U.S.C. § 41(a)(7) has been implemented in 37 CFR 1.137(b). An “unintentional” petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by the \$1,540 petition fee.

The filing of a petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) cannot be intentionally delayed and therefore must be filed promptly. A person seeking revival due to unintentional delay cannot make a statement that the delay was unintentional unless the entire delay, including the date it was discovered that the application was abandoned until the filing of the petition to revive under 37 CFR 1.137(b), was unintentional. A statement that the delay was unintentional is not appropriate if petitioner intentionally delayed the filing of a petition for revival under 37 CFR 1.137(b).

Any request for reconsideration of this decision should be filed within two (2) months from the mail date of this decision. Note 37 CFR 1.181(f). The request for reconsideration should include a cover letter and be entitled as a “Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.181 to Withdraw the Holding of Abandonment.”

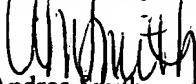
Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By Mail: Mail Stop PETITION
 Commissioner for Patents
 P. O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand: U. S. Patent and Trademark Office
 Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Petitions
 Randolph Building
 401 Dulany Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314

By facsimile: (571) 273-8300
 Attn: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3226.


Andrea Smith
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

¹ See MPEP § 711.03(c) under subheading "Petition to Withdraw Holding of Abandonment Based on Failure to Receive Office Action," and "Withdrawing the Holding of Abandonment When Office Actions Are Not Received," 1156 Official Gazette 53 (November 16, 1993).